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UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Attorney Docket No.

P18888

Total Pages

Inventor(s) or Application Identifier
Marco CAERAN

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Title: SPORTS BOOT WITH FLEXIBLE FRAME

ADDRESS TO:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form
2. ☒ Specification [Total Pages 17]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
- Descriptive title of the Invention
- Cross References to Related Applications
- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
- Reference to Microfiche Appendix
- Background of the Invention
- Brief Summary of the Invention
- Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
- Detailed Description
- Claim(s)
- Abstract of the Disclosure
3. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 USC 113) [Total Sheets 3]
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration [Total Pages 3]
a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy) ☐ Unexecuted
b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
[Note Box 5 below]
i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s)
named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2)
and 1.33(b).
- ☐ Incorporation By Reference (useable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy
of the oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered
as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application
and is hereby incorporated by reference therein.
- ☐ Microfiche Computer Program (Appendix)
- Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission
(if applicable, all necessary)
a. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
b. ☐ Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)
c. ☐ Statement verifying identity of above copies

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement ☐ Power of Attorney
(when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☐ Information Disclosure ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)
(Should be specifically itemized)
14. ☐ Small Entity ☐ Statement filed in prior application,
Statement(s) Status still proper and desired
15. ☐ The prior application is assigned of record to _____
16. ☐ Foreign priority claimed
a. ☐ Claim of Priority
b. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)
17. ☐ Other: _____

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior Application No. _____/_____, filed _____.19. ☐ Amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:

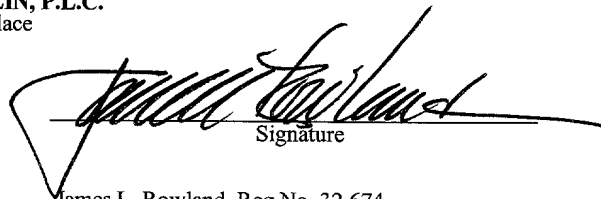
This application is a ___ continuation-in-part, ___ continuation, ___ division, of Application No. _____/_____, filed _____.

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March 29, 2000

Date



Signature

James L. Rowland, Reg No. 32,674

Typed or Printed Name

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TITLE OF THE INVENTION

SPORTS BOOT WITH FLEXIBLE FRAME

INVENTOR

Marco CAERAN

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SPORTS BOOT WITH FLEXIBLE FRAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a reinforcement system, a frame for a sports boot, especially gliding sports, of the flexible type such as a boot for snowboard, roller skate, in-line skate, ice skate, cross country ski boot, short ski, telemark, etc.

2. Description of Background and Relevant Information

10 Boots of the aforementioned type are adapted to ensure a linkage between the user's foot and the gliding apparatus, namely, a skate, snowboard, ski, etc., so as to enable the practice of the sport considered. In particular, they must be rigid enough to transmit the forces exerted by the user's leg to the gliding apparatus and/or to provide rigid supports in certain directions necessary for the practice of the sport, while being sufficiently flexible to allow certain flexional movements of the leg with respect to the foot and not to hinder certain movements
15 in other directions.

20 In fact, the intention is to reconcile completely conflicting requirements, i.e., guaranteeing a certain comfort and a certain flexible retention of the foot and leg, and allowing them to take various positions as a function of the situations encountered or desired during the practice of the sport, on the one hand, and guaranteeing, for the user's foot and leg, firm supports which must be especially

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powerful as the gliding apparatus (skate, ski, snowboard, etc.) is larger, or as the sport is often fast paced and/or involves more or less acrobatic movements.

Thus, the lever arms resulting from the dimensions of the sports apparatus induce forces on the foot or leg that are sometimes very substantial. Furthermore, the foot and/or leg also require to be retained forwardly and rearwardly, but also laterally and/or torsionally depending on the type of sport, these firm retention requirements being contradictory to the notion of comfort.

Similarly, in snowboarding, alpine skiing, or skating, a rearward leg support is generally sought, this support being more or less rigid depending on the sport that is practiced.

Historically, ski boots have evolved from relatively flexible structures (leather boots) to boots made of extremely rigid plastic materials. Snowboarding involves either boots with rigid structure borne of alpine technology, or supple boots of snow boots.

With respect to the supple or flexible boots, they generally ensure the foot retention by deformation of the upper (made of leather, fabric, flexible plastic), by bringing the latter closer to the foot/lower leg by means of a lacing system which tends to press the foot against the sole and rear of the boot.

It is also known from the document FR 2 902 735, for example, to have an external rigid frame arranged on the exterior of the boot and adapted to centralize the forces and supports during the practice of the sport. This external frame is generally made of a rigid rear stiffener affixed to a more or less rigid sole, and of

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a collar adapted to surround the lower leg and journalled on the rear stiffener. Such constructions are known especially in skates, as well as in snowboards. The journalled collar can be arranged on the inside or on the outside.

5 These constructions have made it possible to particularly improve the manufacture of flexible boots by combining the aspects of comfort, rigidity, and foot/leg retention.

However, they sometimes present problems of discomfort at the level of the journalled collar. Furthermore, the rigid materials that are used for the rigid portions tend to weigh down the boot.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 An object of the present invention is to overcome the aforementioned disadvantages, and to provide a new flexible boot structure that is easy and inexpensive to implement, that allows a good transmission of the forces and supports, and that has appropriate rigidity along certain predetermined directions for the practice of the sport, while respecting the flexible structure of the boot to the maximum.

15 This object is achieved in the boot according to the invention, which is of the type having an outer sole and an external upper covering the foot and lower leg, in that the external upper has a flexible frame made out of a flexible, substantially non-stretchable material arranged along preferred directions of forces/supports affixed to both the upper and sole.

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Surprisingly, the linkage of the frame to the sole and upper makes it possible to notably reinforce the latter at the level of the frame, despite the flexibility of the frame, and to transmit the selected efforts/supports.

Furthermore, the choice of a flexible material allows an easy implementation on the upper.

Preferably, the assembly of the flexible material to the upper is done by stitching.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The invention will be better understood and other characteristics thereof will become apparent from the following description, with reference to the annexed schematic drawing, in which:

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a boot incorporating a flexible frame according to the invention;

FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a flexible frame, the boot being schematically shown in dotted lines;

FIG. 3 shows a flattened boot upper incorporating the flexible frame, before assembly;

FIG. 4 is a perspective bottom view showing the assembly of the flexible frame to the sole, with the upper not being shown;

FIG. 5 is a partial cross-sectional view along the line V-V of FIG.1;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a boot incorporating a flexible frame according to an alternative embodiment of the invention; and

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FIG. 7 is perspective view of a flexible frame according to the same alternative embodiment, the boot being schematically shown in dotted lines.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5 FIG. 1 shows a boot, in this case a snowboard boot incorporating a flexible frame 10 according to the invention, shown in dotted lines in this figure. The application to a snowboard boot is only shown by way of a non-limiting example, and the invention can be used on any other sports boot, especially for gliding sports, such as a ski boot, cross country ski boot, skate boot, etc., in which similar or identical problems must be resolved.

10 The boot 1 has an external upper 2 adapted to cover the user's foot/leg and capable of being tightened on the user's foot/leg by a lacing 3 or any other closing means, and a bottom assembly or external sole 4.

It can also have an inner liner 5 depending on the type of boot.

15 A flexible frame 10, shown more particularly in FIGS. 2-4, is arranged within the external upper 2 and fixed to both the outer sole 4 and to the external upper 2, by an insole 7, as shown in FIG. 5, for example.

This flexible frame 10, constituted by a band-shaped material, has a dorsal portion 11 at the rear which extends substantially from the outer sole 4 up to the level of the top end of the upper, at about mid-height of the tibia.

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The dorsal portion 11 has, at its lower end 12, a flared portion adapted to surround the heel and ensure an efficient retention thereof.

This lower end 12 is furthermore provided with brackets 13 for its assembly to the outer sole 4.

5 Similarly, the upper end 14 of the dorsal portion 11 is flared so as to allow a covering of the calf and a better support distribution.

The upper end 14 of the dorsal portion 11 is connected on each side to the outer sole 4 by a lateral arm 15 substantially in the form of a C in this case.

10 Furthermore, each lateral arm 15 is provided with a vertical connecting lug 16 adapted to ensure its linkage with the outer sole 4.

Preferably, the linkage of the vertical lug 16 with the outer sole 4 occurs substantially at the level of the foot metatarsophalangeal joint for an optimum transmission of the forces that are generated during practice.

15 Depending on the type of sport that is practiced, this linkage can be arranged at the front or rear of the metatarsophalangeal joint.

Finally, each lateral arm 15 is connected to the dorsal portion 11 in the area of the flexion fold and in the area of the upper end 14, respectively, of the dorsal portion 11, by a connecting lug 17, oriented substantially along the flexion fold, and a second connecting lug 18.

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Each of the portions 11, 15, 17, 18, of the flexible frame 10 is made of a flexible, substantially non-stretchable material, i.e., a material that is substantially non-stretchable for the normal values of forces applied during the practice of the sport considered. In practice, materials such as polyvinyl chloride, polyamide, polyethylene, or polyurethane can be used.

Preferably, although not necessarily, the frame 10 has an integral or a unitary, one-piece structure.

The flexible frame 10 is fixed to the external upper 2 and to the outer sole 4 in two ways.

Initially, it is affixed to the upper 2 by various seams, or stitchings, 20, 21, respectively.

The seams 20 constitute the assembly of each edge of the dorsal portion 11 to the external upper 2, whereas the seams 21 constitute the assembly of each of the connecting lugs 16, 17, 18 of each lateral arm 15 to the upper, thereby preserving a possibility of longitudinal mobility of the lateral arms 15 with respect to the external upper 2.

These seams 20, 21 can be triple, as shown in the figures, or single, double, etc.

The seams 21 can be merged with the continuous seams 22 of the upper for aesthetic reasons. The assembly of the lower ends of the frame to the upper can

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be made by a low peripheral seam 24, as shown in FIG. 3, and/or by means of the insole 7 on which these ends 13, 16 are fixed by adhesion and/or nails 24.

Surprisingly, and despite the flexibility of the material used for the flexible frame 10, the linkage thereof with the upper and the outer sole contributes to the stiffening of the upper, the transmission of the forces, and a certain energizing of the upper in forward bending.

Indeed, the dorsal portion 11, combined with the lateral arms, makes it possible to provide a rear support, due to the non-stretchability of the material used.

Likewise, the non-stretchability of the material and the relative freedom of the lateral arms 15, in conjunction with their C-shape, make it possible to ensure an elastic rearward return of the upper following a forward bending. Additionally, the lateral arms 15 offer a certain resistance to forward bending, and therefore a certain rigidity due to the fact that this flexional force occurs along a zone of great moment of inertia of the lateral arms. Other forms or arrangements of the lateral arms can be provided to provide a maximum moment of inertia with respect to the directions of the forces applied, for which rigidity is desired.

Finally, the assembly of the lateral arms to the sole in the area of the metatarsophalangeal joint allows a transmission of the forces along a preferred metatarsophalangeal joints/leg direction.

FIG. 6 shows a snowboard boot that incorporates a flexible frame 10 according to an alternative embodiment, and is shown in dotted lines in this figure.

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The intrinsic characteristics of the flexible frame 10, as well as the modes for attaching the frame 10 to the external upper 2 and on the outer sole 4, which have been described previously, also apply to this alternative embodiment.

5 This alternative embodiment is distinguished mainly by the singular geometry of the reinforcement which is the object of the present description, and by the specific tightening means. Indeed, the lateral arm 15 of the flexible frame 10 has a tightening means 31, such as guides or keepers for the lace. Moreover, the dorsal portion 11 has, at least laterally, a lug 32 having tightening means 33 which, in this case, are hooks for the passage of the lace 3. This lug 32 is located on a level with the top of the external upper 2, above the ankle joint. The dorsal portion 11 can advantageously have two lugs 32, 32a, which are substantially symmetrical.

10 The general tightening arrangement, composed of the lace 3, can advantageously pass in guides 102, 103, 31, 33, respectively, located alternately on the external upper 2 and on the flexible frame 10. This constructive arrangement makes it possible to combine a powerful tightening in the area of the guides 31, located on the lateral arm 15 for the instep girth, and in the area of the guides 33 located on the lug 32 for the tibia, and to combine a substantial tightening at the level of the guide 102, located on the external upper 2 for the ankle, and in the area of the guide 103 for the toes.

20 The alternating of the guides or keepers of the lace that are positioned on the external upper 2 and on the flexible frame 10 can be different from the arrangement described.

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5 In most sports, especially snowboarding, where flexible boots are used, it is necessary to maintain a good rear support on the boot. To achieve this object, the flexible frame 10 is constituted of at least two pieces which overlap one another in the area of the calf, thus creating an overlap 104. This specific assembly is shown in FIG. 7. The dorsal portion 11 has a first rear piece 110. Additionally, a front piece 111 has at least one lug 32 or at least one lateral band 15. This front piece 111 has appropriate fixing means 112, such as seams which make it possible to fix the front piece 111 on the rear piece 110, in the area of the dorsal portion 11.

10 The rear piece 110 can advantageously be made of a slightly less flexible material than the front piece 111, so as to better transmit the rear supports on the gliding apparatus. Additionally, the great flexibility of the front piece 111 makes it possible to properly cover the foot while retaining it laterally. The lateral band 15 can be advantageously connected, at least on the inner side, to the dorsal portion 11 of the front piece 111 by appropriate means, such as seams. The lateral band 15 can be made of a more flexible material than the front piece 111, for example, a more flexible plastic material or a non-stretchable textile strap. Respecting this constructive arrangement makes it possible to improve the internal lateral bending of the boot, which can be useful in snowboarding.

20 The flexible frame 10 can be made integral or in one-piece. In this case, the objects related to rear support and internal lateral bending, which have been previously described, are achieved by variations in the thickness of the flexible frame 10 and/or by hot forming processes which make it possible to obtain stiffening ribs in the flexible frame 10.

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5 The dorsal portion 11 can advantageously include a substantially vertical notch 113 located substantially in an axial plane of the boot. This notch 113, located on a level with the top of the external upper 2, makes the rear support more comfortable by locally softening the top of the external upper 2, at the level of the calf. Moreover, the dorsal portion 11 can advantageously include a recess 30 at the level of the front portion of the heel of the foot. The dorsal portion 11 is then connected to the outer sole 4 by at least one band 120 that extends laterally in the vicinity of the ankle. This recess 30 makes it possible to clear a space for the heel, and thus to better adapt the dorsal portion 11 to the morphology of the rear portion of the user's foot. This recess 30 can be advantageously completed by a notch 134 whose lower end opens out on the recess 30. It allows the dorsal portion 11 to adapt perfectly, because the notch 134, which is arranged substantially vertical and arranged substantially along the axial plane of the boot, conforms to the geometry of the Achilles tendon of the user's foot.

10
15 In the same preferred embodiment shown in FIG. 7, the dorsal portion 11 includes the recess 30. The fixing means 112, which make it possible to fix the two constituent pieces 110, 111 of the flexible frame 10 to one another, are then positioned above the recess 30.

20 The flexible frame 10 can be asymmetrical and only have one lateral arm 15 and/or one lug 32. In this case, guides of the lace will be arranged on the external upper 2 in order to reconstitute the symmetry in the lacing area.

For snowboarding, and especially for jumps, the following geometry can be advantageously retained: two symmetrical arms 15, one lug 32 on the lateral side, i.e., on the external side, and a band 120 on the same side. Respecting this

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arrangement facilitates the lateral bending on the internal side of the boot, while stiffening the lateral bending on the external side and maintaining a good rear support.

5 In all of the described embodiments, the flexible frame 10 can be arranged on the outside as well as on the inside of the external upper 2.

The shape and construction of the flexible frame can also be modified depending on the intended sport. Thus, if essentially asymmetrical forces are to be transmitted, the frame will have a corresponding asymmetrical shape, and will possibly have only one lateral arm.

10 The particular ease of use of such a flexible frame is also noted, since the use of a flexible, although substantially non-stretchable material allows a very easy implementation by a mere seam or adhesive.

The present invention is not limited to the described embodiments and encompasses all of the similar or equivalent embodiments.

15 Moreover, the invention is not limited to the described embodiments but applies also to any boot in which similar or equivalent problems must be solved.

20 The instant application is based upon French Patent Application No. 99.04297, filed March 30, 1999, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference thereto in its entirety, and the priority of which is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. §119.

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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 5
1. A sports boot, especially for gliding sports, comprising:
an outer sole and an external upper covering the user's foot and lower leg, the external upper comprising a flexible frame made of a flexible, substantially non-stretchable material, arranged along preferred directions of forces/supports affixed to both the external upper and the outer sole.
 - 10 2. A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein the flexible frame comprises a dorsal portion extending from the outer sole substantially up to a top end of the external upper, and at least one lateral arm laterally connecting the upper end of the dorsal portion to one side of the boot.
 3. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein said at least one lateral arm comprises two substantially symmetrical lateral arms.
 - 15 4. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein each said lateral arm is fixed to the outer sole by a connecting lug, substantially in an area of the metatarsophalangeal joint of the foot.
 5. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein at least one lateral arm comprises a tightening arrangement.
 - 20 6. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein the dorsal portion laterally comprises at least one lug having a tightening arrangement and is on a level with the top of the external upper.

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7. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein the dorsal portion laterally comprises two substantially symmetrical lugs.

8. A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein the flexible frame is fixed, at each of its lower ends, to the external upper and to the outer sole.

5 9. A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein for a conventional assembly, with the upper lasting allowance between an insole and the outer sole, each of the lower ends of the frame is fixed to the lasting allowance.

10 10. A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein each of the lower ends of the frame is fixed by a seam on the lower end of the external upper.

11. A sports boot according to claim 1, wherein the frame is fixed on the external upper by a seam.

12. A sports boot according to claim 3, wherein each lateral arm is fixed to the upper, and to the sole, respectively, only by its connecting lugs and conserves an entire elastically deformable free portion.

15 13. A sports boot, especially for gliding sports, comprising an outer sole and an external upper overlying the outer sole and covering the user's foot and lower leg, the external upper comprising a flexible frame made of a substantially non-stretchable material and affixed to the upper and sole, comprising a dorsal portion, extending vertically at the rear of the lower leg, and comprising at least
20 one lateral portion, extending laterally along the foot, connected to said dorsal portion and to the sole, at each of its ends.

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14. A sports boot, especially for gliding sports, comprising an outer sole and an external upper overlying the outer sole and covering the user's foot and lower leg, the upper including a flexible frame made of a substantially non-stretchable material and arranged so as to provide a predetermined moment of inertia along predetermined directions.

15. A sports boot, especially for gliding sports, according to claim 14, wherein the flexible frame comprises lateral arms in the form of flat bands oriented so as to provide a predetermined moment of inertia during a forward bending.

16. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein the dorsal portion comprises a recess at the level of the front portion of the heel of the foot.

17. A sports boot according to claim 16, wherein the dorsal portion comprises a notch whose lower end opens out on the recess.

18. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein the dorsal portion constitutes a rear piece, and the dorsal portion including at least one lug, and at least one lateral arm constitutes a front piece, and wherein the front piece includes appropriate fixing means for fixing the front piece on the rear piece, at the level of the dorsal portion.

19. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein each external lateral arm is furthermore connected to the dorsal portion by a connecting lug oriented substantially along the flexion fold.

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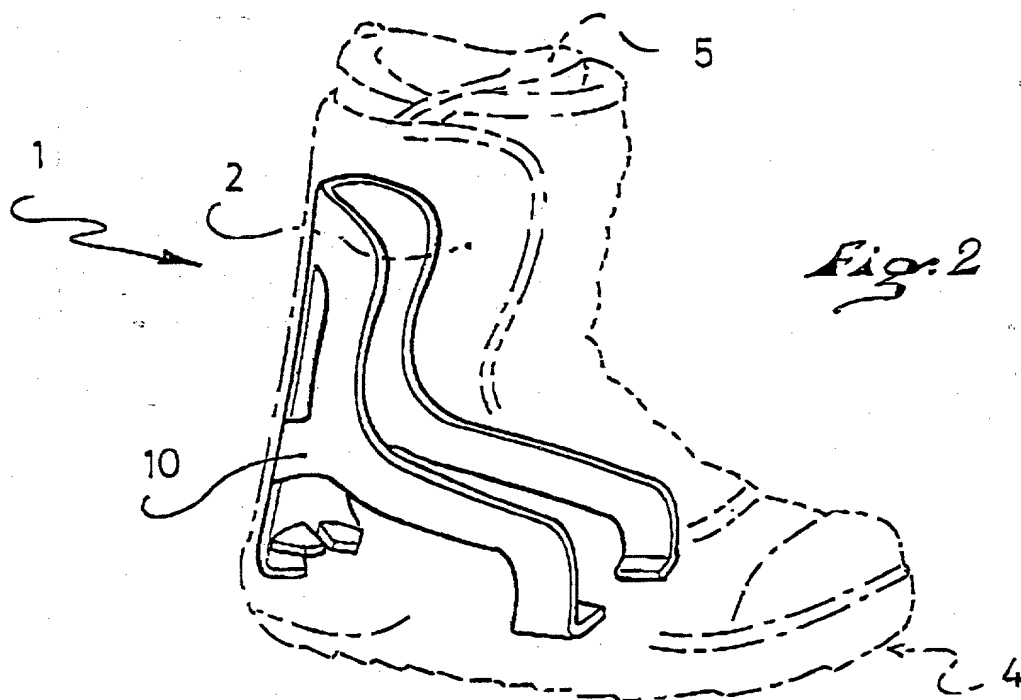
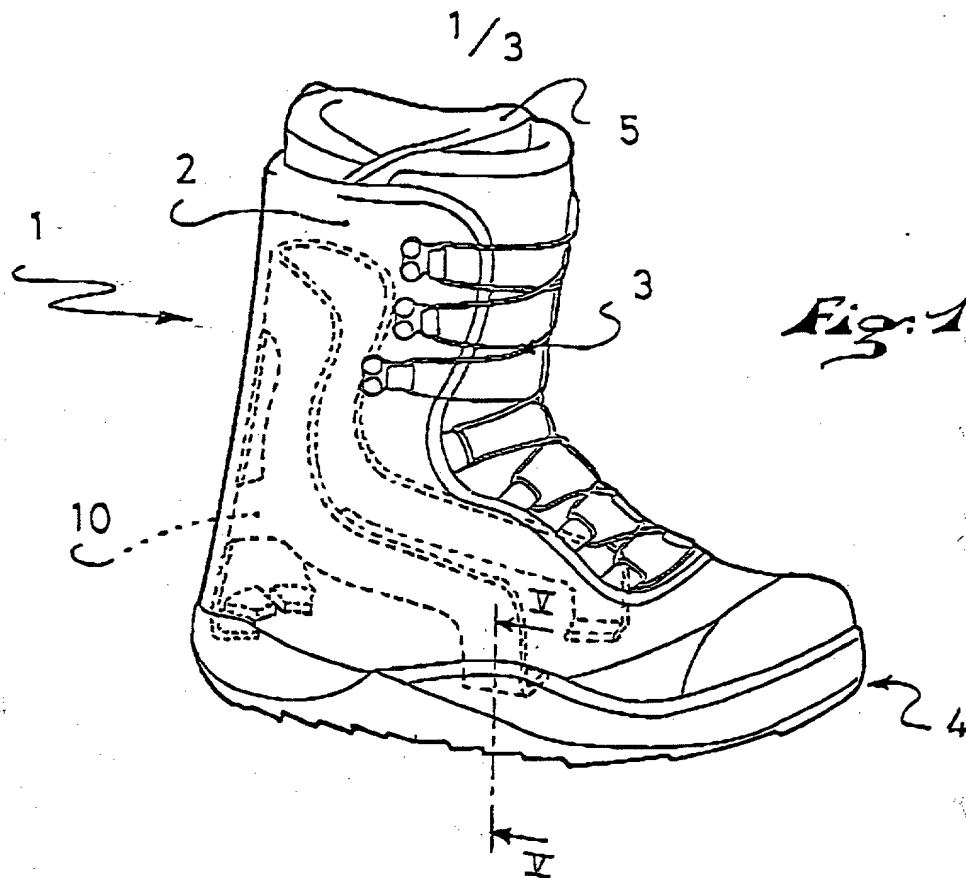
20. A sports boot according to claim 2, wherein the dorsal portion has a bottom portion that is flared so as to surround the heel.

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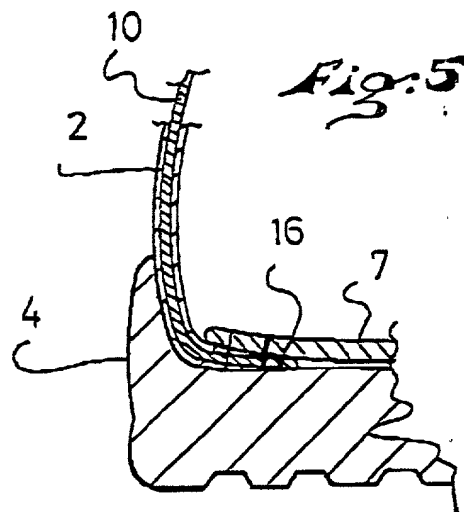
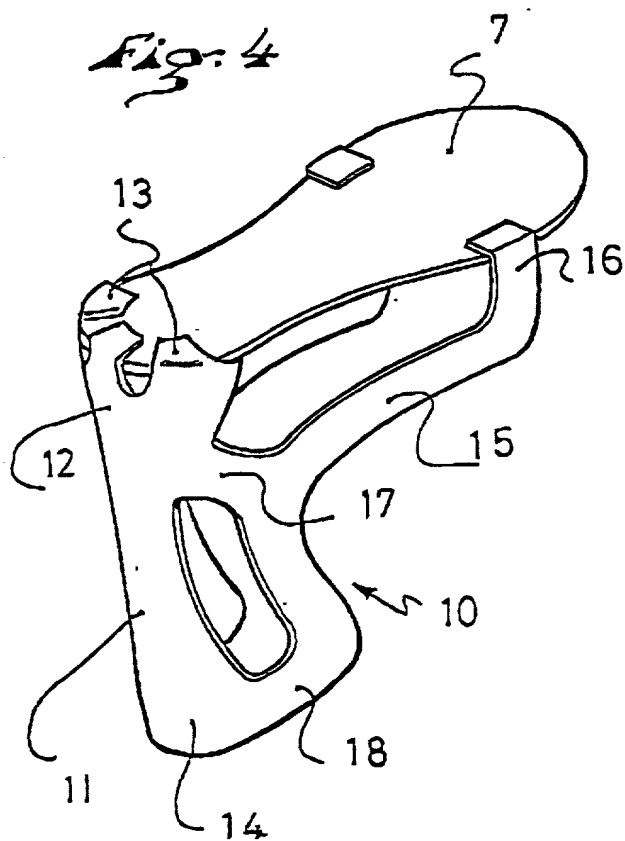
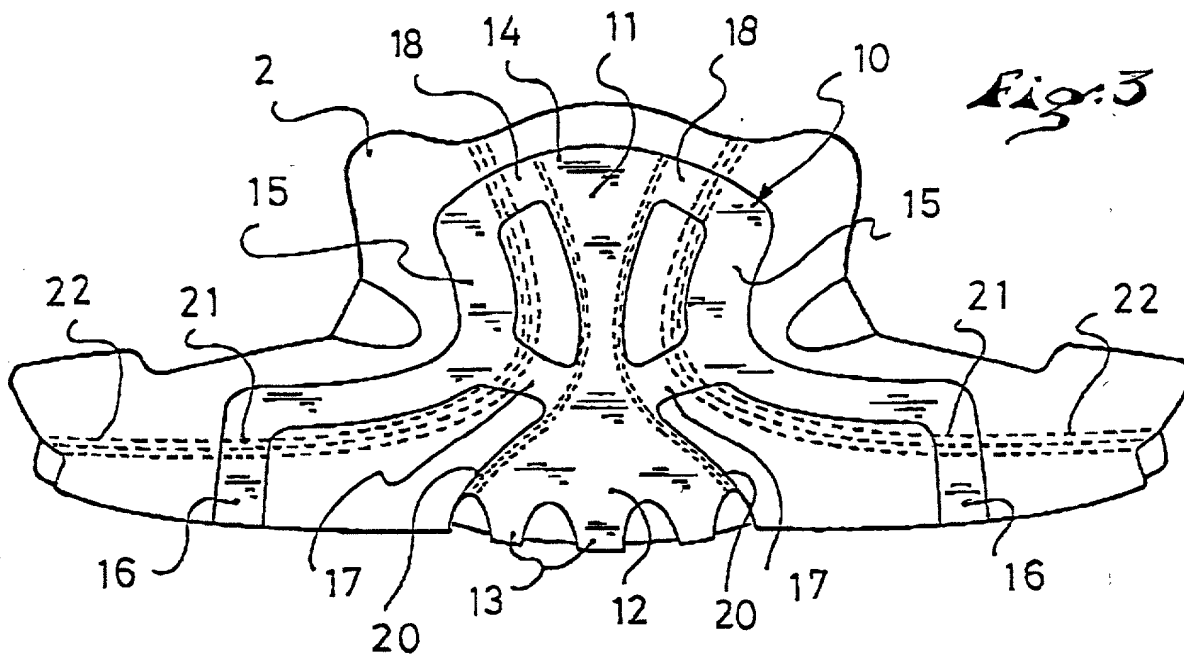
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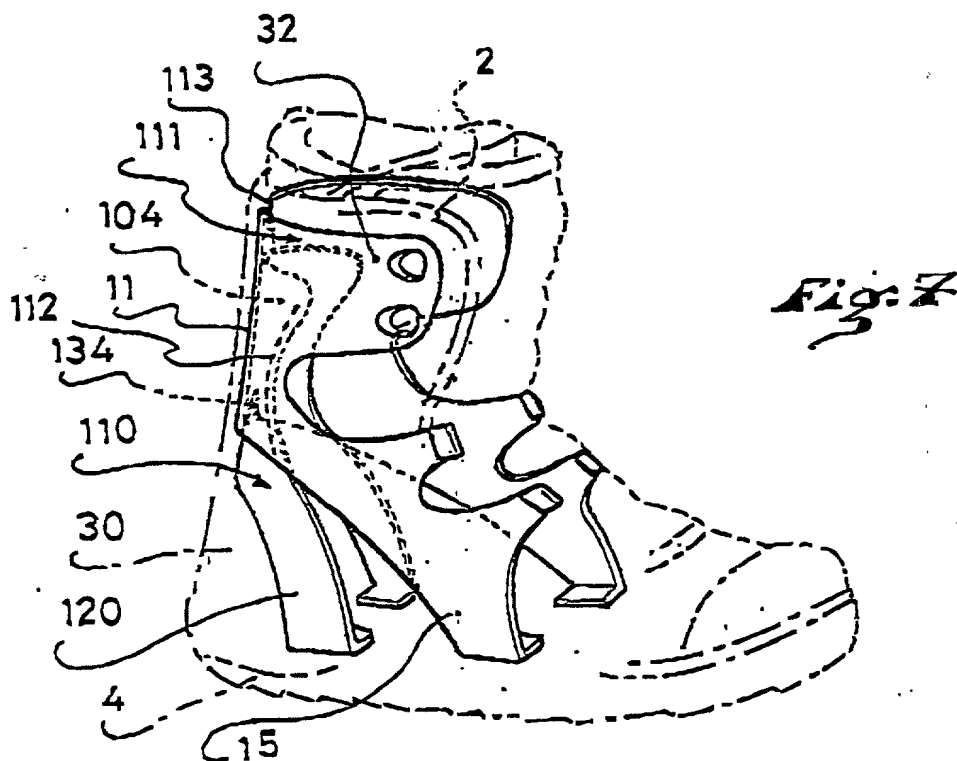
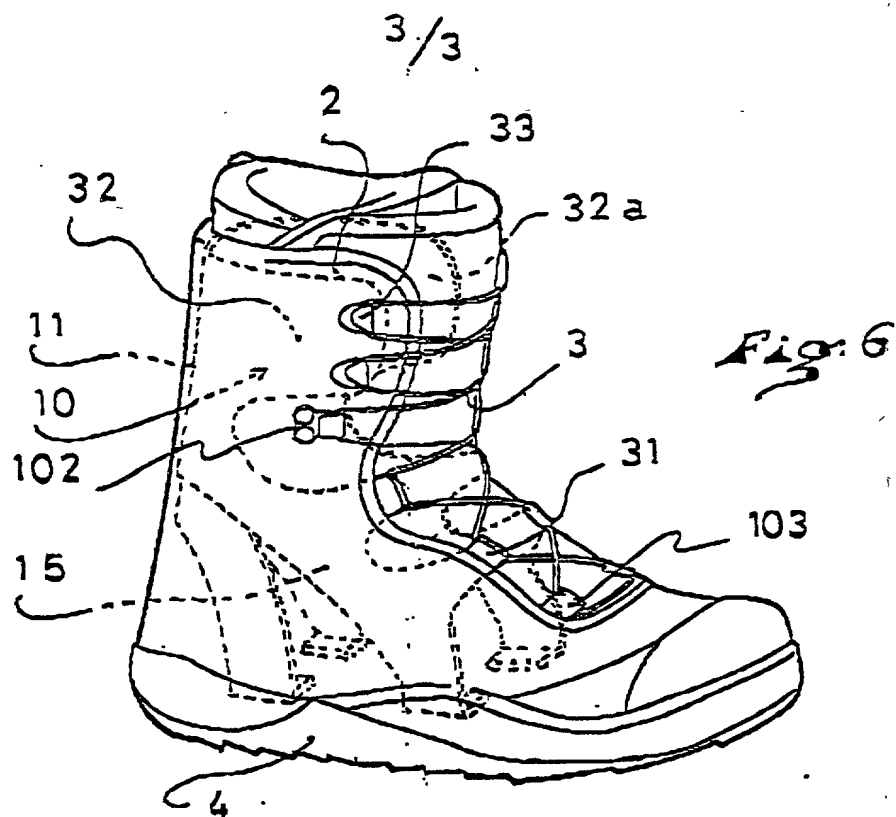
ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A boot having an outer sole and an external upper covering the user's foot and lower leg. The external upper has a flexible frame made of a flexible, substantially non-stretchable material, arranged along preferred directions of forces/supports affixed to both the external upper and the outer sole. The flexible frame has a dorsal portion extending from the outer sole substantially up to the top end of the external upper, and at least one lateral arm laterally connecting the upper end of the dorsal portion to one side of the boot.



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Declaration and Power of Attorney For Utility or Design Patent Application
Déclaration pour Demandes de Brevet d'Utilité et de Modèle avec Pouvoirs
French Language Declaration

En tant qu'inventeur nommé ci-après, Je déclare par le présent acte que:

Mon domicile, mon adresse postale et ma nationalité sont ceux figurant ci-dessous à côté de mon nom.

Je crois être le premier inventeur original et unique (si un seul nom est mentionné ci-dessous), ou l'un des premiers co-inventeurs originaux (si plusieurs noms sont mentionnés ci-dessous) de l'objet revendiqué, pour lequel une demande de brevet a été déposée concernant l'invention intitulée

CHAUSSURE DE SPORT A OSSATURE SOUPLE

et dont la description est fournie ci-jointe à moins que la case suivante n'ait été cochée:

- ☐ a été déposée _____
 sous le numéro de demande des Etats-Unis _____
 et modifiée le _____ (le cas échéant) ou,
 le numéro de demande internationale PCT _____
 et modifiée le _____ (le cas échéant).

Je déclare par le présent acte avoir passé en revue et compris le contenu de la description ci-dessus, revendications comprises, telles que modifiées par toute modification dont il aura été fait référence ci-dessus.

Je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations.

Je revendique par le présent acte avoir la priorité étrangère, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(a)-(d) ou § 365(b) du Code des Etats-Unis, sur toute demande étrangère de brevet ou certificat d'inventeur ou, en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(a) du même Code, sur toute demande internationale PCT désignant au moins un pays autre que les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous. J'ai aussi indiqué ci-dessous, en cochant la case "Non", toute demande étrangère de brevet, tout certificat d'inventeur ou toute demande internationale PCT ayant une date de dépôt précédant celle de la demande à propos de laquelle une priorité est revendiquée.

Prior foreign applications
 Demandes antérieures étrangères

<u>99 04297</u>	<u>FRANCE</u>
(Number)	(Country)
(Numéro)	(Pays)
_____	_____
(Number)	(Country)
(Numéro)	(Pays)

<u>30/MARCH/1999</u>
(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

Priority claimed
 Priorité revendiquée

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No
Oui	Non
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yes	No
Oui	Non

☐ D'autres demandes étrangères sont énumérées sur la feuille de priorité supplémentaire ci-jointe.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

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the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

- ☐ was filed on _____ as
 United States Application Number _____
 and was amended on _____ (if applicable) or,
 PCT International Application Number _____
 and was amended on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above:

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code § 119 (a-d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below. I have also identified below, by checking the "No" box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

French Language Utility or Design Patent Application Declaration

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35 §119(e) du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet provisoire effectuée aux Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous.

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

☐ D'autres demandes provisoires sont énumérées sur la feuille de priorité supplémentaire ci-jointe.

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, §120 du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet effectuée aux Etats-Unis, ou en vertu du Titre 35, §365 (c) du même Code, de toute demande internationale PCT désignant les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, dans la mesure où l'objet de chacune des revendications de cette demande de brevet n'est pas divulgué dans la demande antérieure américaine ou internationale PCT, en vertu des dispositions du premier paragraphe du Titre 35, §112 du Code des Etats-Unis, je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, §1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations, dont j'ai pu disposer entre la date de dépôt de la demande antérieure et la date de dépôt de la demande nationale ou internationale PCT de la présente demande:

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

(Application No.)
(No. de la demande)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

☐ D'autres demandes américaines ou internationales sont énumérées sur la feuille de priorité supplémentaire ci-jointe.

Je déclare par le présent acte que toute déclaration ci-incluse est, à ma connaissance, véridique et que toute déclaration formulée à partir de renseignements ou de suppositions est tenue pour véridique; et de plus, que toutes ces déclarations ont été formulées en sachant que toute fausse déclaration volontaire ou son équivalent est passible d'une amende ou d'une incarcération, ou des deux, en vertu de la Section 1001 du Titre 18 du Code des Etats-Unis, et que de telles déclarations volontairement fausses risquent de compromettre la validité de la demande de brevet ou du brevet délivré à partir de celle-ci.

Le(s) soussigné(s) autorise(nt) par la présente le(s) avocat(s) américain(s) ou le(s) mandataire(s) ci-après désigné(s) à accepter et à suivre les instructions, soit de son(leurs) conseil(s) en brevet étranger(s), soit du représentant officiel de la société, concernant toute démarche nécessaire à effectuer auprès de l'Office américain des Brevets et des Marques concernant cette demande, sans communication directe entre le(s) avocat(s) américain(s) ou le(s) mandataire(s) nommé(s) par la présente sera(ont) informé(s) par le(s) soussigné(s). Dans l'hypothèse d'un changement dans les donneurs d'instructions, le(s) avocat(s) américain(s) ou le(s) mandataire(s) nommé(s) par la présente sera(ont) informé(s) par le(s) soussigné(s).

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

(Day/Month/Year Filed)
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

☐ Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code §120 of any United States application(s), or §365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Status)
(Etat)
(patented, pending, abandoned)
(brevetée, pendante, abandonnée)

(Status)
(Etat)
(patented, pending, abandoned)
(brevetée, pendante, abandonnée)

☐ Additional U.S. or international application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority sheet attached hereto.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. attorney or agent named herein to accept and follow instructions from either his foreign patent agent or corporate representative, if any, as to any action to be taken in the Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. attorney or agent and the undersigned. In the event of a change in the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. attorney or agent named herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

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French Language Utility or Design Patent Application Declaration

POUVOIR: En tant qu'inventeur, je désigne l'(les) avocat(s) et/ou l'(les) agent(s) associés au Numéro Client indiqué ci-dessous pour poursuivre la procédure de cette demande et traiter toute affaire la concernant auprès de l'Office des Brevets et des Marques, et autorise à ce que toute correspondance soit associée à ce Numéro Client.

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the attorney(s) and/or agent(s) associated with the Customer Number provided below to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and direct that all correspondence be addressed to that Customer Number.

NUMERO CLIENT 7055

CUSTOMER NUMBER 7055

Les avocats actuellement désignés sont énumérés ci-après:

The appointed attorneys presently include:

Neil F. Greenblum
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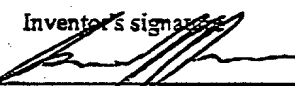
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(Fournir les mêmes renseignements et la signature de tout co-inventeur supplémentaire).	(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent joint inventors.)